

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Present: Frank Cunningham, John Miles, Alyce Turner, Jean Sax, Barbara Buffaloe, Kip Kendrick, Dan Goldstein, Ted Dyer, David Brodsky

Absent: Teresa Hunter, Bob Walters

Guests: Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The minutes for December 18, 2007 were approved with changes.

LAND DISTURBANCE AND TREE ORDINANCE ISSUES

Mr. Cunningham said that he attended the Council work session on the discussion of land disturbance and Council persons Jerry Wade, Barbara Hoppe, and Karl Skala expressed concern relating to the City's land disturbance and tree preservation policies. Council would like to see good research, some comparison to similar cities and sources for this subject. Council is also seeking help from many of the boards and commissions for outside research on several topics including land disturbance and tree preservation. Mr. Wade is willing to set up work sessions for the commissioners on these issues. Ms. Sax mentioned that she spoke with Lou Phemister, the City Arborist, who has gone through the land disturbance ordinance. He believes there needs to be an Urban Forest Master Plan developed before creating a tree ordinance. He is willing to help write a report to Council from Public Works. Ms. Sax also suggested writing a letter to Council to inform them of Mr. Phemister's involvement. Several commissioners expressed concern in making sure the EEC, Council and City staff are in agreement in regards to this process. Mr. Goldstein suggested a public meeting to get community input. Several times for a public meeting were discussed. It was expressed that it would be beneficial for the meeting to be held before the upcoming elections. Actions to be taken: 1. Have Lou Phemister as a guest speaker at the next meeting; 2. review the existing concerns with land disturbance and tree preservation; 3. Mr. Kendrick will check for scheduling conflicts during the proposed dates, the week of March 17 or March 24 for the public meeting; 4. Mr. Cunningham will draft a letter to Council regarding the City Arborist and developing a plan.

STREET LIGHTING

Mr. Dyer will meet with Dan Clark of Water and Light to discuss issues concerning street lights. The main topics to be discussed are other vendors, a light test, liability, and the phase out of mercury vapor. Mr. Cunningham would like to know what plan the City has for the phase out of mercury vapor lights and the economics behind it. The concern with LEDs is that they fade after so much usage. Mr. Dyer and Mr. Cunningham will meet and discuss this subject and discuss having a follow up meeting with Mr. Clark.

NEW SCHOOLS

Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Buffaloe reviewed the plans for the new school locations. The draft letter of recommendations addressed to the Columbia Public School Board will be e-mailed to the commissioners by Mr. Cunningham. Responses are to be sent to Mr. Cunningham only.

REPORT CARD

Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that she had checked the City's website for information on how the City's tracking its progress in complying with the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and said there was no indication. She felt the EEC could help them develop a way to measure this and is willing to be a part of a subcommittee to that effect. Santa Monica was given as an example. A graph could be compiled for each sector and be broken down into topics. Ms. Buffaloe will email the link of examples to the commissioners.

ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Sax said the dates have been added to the reports for both years. They have been sent to Boone County and need to be sent to the City Council.

COMMENTS

Ms. Buffaloe announced that she is a faculty advisor for the solar decathlon. Mr. Miles said he would like to have names, outlines of the topics, and time estimations added to the agenda items. He would also like a clarification on the current topics for the discussion. Degree heating and cooling days was discussed and the best way to inform customers on this. Mr. Miles said he did not think the Finance Department of the City wanted to include this information on the utility bills.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

1. Lou Phemister, City Arborist – Jean Sax
2. Street Lighting – Ted Dyer
3. Providing Utility Bill Feedback – John Miles, Dan Goldstein
4. Climate Protection Panel – Barbara Buffaloe, Frank Cunningham
5. Report Card – Barbara Buffaloe

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison